

What We Have “Through Jesus Christ”

Intro: As we gather to break bread, it is also fitting that we not only remember what Jesus did; but what we have because of his sacrifice. I don't know of any text that declares that more clearly than Romans 5.

As we read Romans 5 we are impressed with the repetition of a single phrase throughout the chapter: “through Jesus Christ”. Paul wants us to appreciate and respond to what Jesus has done for us!

To really appreciate what Christ has made possible for us, we need to:

Remember what we were

Paul uses four terms to describe what we were before we became Christians

Without strength (v. 6) The word calls to mind our inability to deliver ourselves through keeping the law of God perfectly.

Ungodly (v. 6) The word remind us that our attitude toward God was not right. We did not possess proper reverence for God who created us.

Sinners (v. 8) This word reminds us that we were transgressors of the law.

Enemies (v. 10) This word reminds us of our relation to God, that our sins were hostile acts toward God, making us His enemies!

These labels may not flatter us; but they are true!

Do we remember what we were? Knowing this makes even more remarkable what He did!

Remember what He did

Died for us (v. 6,8)

Every person who has ever lived on the face of the earth has died and this word may conceal all that Jesus did for us. He

died...violently, painfully, as a criminal, bearing our sins!

He died...for us! That is, in our place, in our stead.

He died for Us! Helpless, ungodly, sinners and enemies of God!

He did it because God loved us!

This is why God has given His Spirit to us—that we might know God's love!

And note how Paul seeks to help us to see the greatness of God's love. It is not a reluctant trickle of mercy or grace but an abundant river... “poured out” in our hearts! God did not want us to have a slight inkling of His love; but to have our hearts flooded with it! And all of that is expressed in those words He died for us!

But lest we still miss the magnitude and marvel of this love, he invites us to consider how this love may compare with what men may do for one another! (v. 7)

Justified us (v. 1)

“Made us righteous” Notice the passive tense! Though conditioned upon active faith the blessing is the work of God! He justified us!

This we could not do because of our sin; but this Jesus did through His blood (v. 9) By giving his life, he made it possible for the sins that made us “unrighteous” to be taken away.

This righteousness we receive “through faith” (v. 1) And here that stands for the trust in Jesus sacrifice that manifests itself in repentance, confess, and baptism!

Reconciled us to God (v. 10, 11)

Jesus restored the hostile relationship with God. God’s enemies were “made friends again” through Christ.

Thus, to know what Jesus did is to appreciate what we have!

Now we can appreciate what we have

Peace with God (v. 1)

Perhaps no word has been uttered more frequently around the world in the past few weeks. We long for “peace” on this earth; but do we appreciate the conflict that ever continues between man and God. Do we long to be at peace with Him!?

Access to grace (v. 2)

What Paul affirms is that we have an “introduction” into God’s favor, implying a continuing relationship with God.

We “stand” in his favor!

Exultation (v. 3) the word conveys a form of joy, the kind that expresses itself in boasting. I’m so proud of you! (Joyous boast) such is our joy!

in hope (we live in anticipation of God’s reward, a promise that will not fail or disappoint

and in tribulation (v. 2b)

Yes, being a disciple of Jesus will bring trials, but even these work toward enhance our hope!

Perseverance leads to proven character which leads to hope

Now we can appreciate what we will have

Saved from wrath (v. 10)

Most people cannot fathom the magnitude or seriousness of the wrath of God! They cannot comprehend the just fury that He possesses toward sinners. It is revealed in the punishment reserved for the unforgiven: outer darkness, eternal unquenchable fire, undying worms

But what we have is “deliverance” from this wrath. We do not have to fear hell!

The glory of God (v. 2)

Instead we can anticipate “the glory” of God.

It appears to be the sharing in God's glory through His glorification of us. He will transform our body into conformity with the body of His glory (Phil. 3:21)

Conclusion: Have you considered what you can have in Christ Jesus?